LOCAL AND LEGISLATIVE SECRETARIA
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PROTECTION BRANCH

The Mysore Representative Assembly

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SECOND ASSEMBLY AFTER THE REFORMS.

FIRST DAY—*13th June 1927.*

The First Session of the Second Assembly after the Reforms was held in the Jagan Mohan Palace Pavilion, Mysore, commencing at 12 NOON on Monday the 13th June 1927.

The names of members that were present are printed in Appendix I.

THE DEWAN and THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL took their seats at 12 NOON precisely, and the proceedings were opened by the Dewan with the following Address:—

MEMBERS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY,

It gives me great pleasure to extend a welcome to the members of the Second Assembly elected or appointed under the Reforms Scheme, and in so doing to welcome so many new faces among you. I do not say this because I do not regret the absence of many members who were prominent in the late Assembly with whom our relations were of the most cordial nature and on whom we relied for sound advice and steadfast guidance. On the other hand, the fact that so many changes have taken place may be taken as evidence that the people value the privilege of representation, and I look to the newly elected members to inspire us with new ideas and show us new ways of looking at old problems, while the faithful remnant of the old body will supply that element of continuity which is so essential in an assembly of this sort. I therefore welcome old and new alike, and trust that we may all be enabled in our term of office to do good work for the prosperity of the State and the general advancement of Mysore and its people.

The election that has just been completed was the second general election held after the introduction of the

Constitutional Reforms in 1923, and it may be interesting to examine the manner in which the voting franchise has been exercised by the people. Out of 130,000 persons who were eligible as voters, more than 60,000 persons actually attended the poll. There were as many as 782 candidates who contested the 204 seats reserved for the rural and urban constituencies. These facts may, perhaps, not justify the belief that there has been a general awakening of political consciousness in the country, but they give unmistakable proof that the membership of this Assembly is coming to be sought more and more as affording a valuable opportunity for public service.

Important Measures.

It will not be out of place here to refer to a few of the more important events which have taken place since the last session.

The failure of rains in parts of the Bangalore District and in the Chamarajnagar Taluk of the Mysore District caused apprehension of distress and measures of relief had to be organised. With the consent of the Legislative Council, additional grants to the extent of Rs. 60,000 were sanctioned for giving Takavi loans and sinking temporary wells. Remission of land revenue amounting to Rs. 72,000 has been sanctioned or proposed for the *maidan* districts. Tank and village works were started in order to give employment to labour and every preparation was made to extend the measures of relief if the situation should deepen into distress. Fortunately, however, that contingency has been averted by the recent rains which were unusually plentiful in the affected parts and all cause for anxiety has now ceased.

The Village Panchayat Regulation has come into force from 1st February 1927 and more than 7,000 Village Panchayats have already been constituted. The Taluk Boards have been abolished. The Mohatarfa revenue which had previously been assigned to the District Boards is now transferred in a modified form to the Village Panchayats. The question of the future treatment of this revenue in some Inam and Jahgir villages will presently be referred to you for an expression of your views.

Irrigation Works.

In my last Address to the Assembly, I outlined a programme of irrigation works to be carried out during the next

three years. I am glad to be able to say that estimates amounting to over 16 lakhs of rupees on account of these works have already been sanctioned and that the remaining works are being actively investigated. The more important among these are the high level canal project under the Krishnaraja Sagara, the excavation of the left bank channel from the Bhadra Anicut, and the construction of a new reservoir at Anjanapur in the Shikarpur Taluk, and of another across the Bhadra at Lakkavalli.

Other Public Works.

The bridge across the Hemavathi at Gorur was opened by His Highness the Maharaja in January last. Two bridges across the Cauvery and the Kapila at T.-Narsipur at a cost of Rs. 8¾ lakhs have been sanctioned and the construction of the former will shortly be commenced. A new electrical power station has been opened at Kankanhalli and estimates have been sanctioned for the supply of electric power to Tumkur, Bowringpet, Channapatna and Kolar. I hope it will be possible to supply power to Shimoga, Nanjangud and Seringapatam too, before long. The reconstruction of the Mysore-Bangalore telephone line will shortly be taken in hand and the service will be thrown open to the public. The rate for electric power supplied to small industries was reduced to 1½ annas per unit not long ago, and still further reductions have since been sanctioned.

Railways.

The construction of the Shimoga-Arasalu Railway—up to Ragihosahalli, a distance of 19 miles—has been resumed and is expected to be completed during 1928. A detailed survey has been made of the final alignment of the Bangalore-Hosur Railway. The extension of the railway from Chamarajnagar to join the metre gauge system of the South Indian Railway is under consideration. I regret that it has become necessary to abandon the Kadur-Chikmagalur line as investigations showed that it would be a hopelessly unremunerative project.

Judicial.

Orders have been passed on the recommendations of the Law's Delays' Committee and action is being taken to introduce the necessary legislative changes. Sanction has

been accorded to the establishment of an additional Subordinate Judge's Court, four Munsiffs' Courts and two Courts of Small Causes for the two cities, the one for Mysore being in lieu of the existing temporary Subordinate Judge's Court. Some of these courts are to be maintained on a temporary footing and will be abolished when the work in the existing courts is reduced to manageable proportions.

The Department of Public Health has been revived and strengthened.

Steps are being taken to constitute a well-boring section in the Department of Industries and Commerce and to equip it with efficient and up-to-date machinery. Steady and organised effort is necessary if the question of adequate supply of drinking water to our towns and villages is to be solved satisfactorily, and we trust that the new agency will make an effective beginning in this direction.

Changes in the organisation of the Education Department are under contemplation so as to secure greater unity of control and more effective co-ordination among the several inspecting agencies.

The Co-operative Department has been enabled by means of liberal grants to devote special attention to the uplift of the depressed classes and to the promotion of house-building activities in the moffusil towns.

Adi-Karnatakas.

Let me say a special word about the policy that Government have been following in respect of the amelioration of the condition of the Adi-Karnatakas, which they regard as one of their special cares.

Exceptional facilities have been created for the education of members of these classes, and methods have been adapted to suit their special circumstances. Scholarships have been sanctioned, exemptions have been granted from school and examination fees; provision has been made for the free distribution of clothes, slates and books. Special free hostels have been instituted at Bangalore, Mysore, Tumkur, Chikmagalur and Hassan. The Adi-Karnatakas have not only the right of admission to all schools, but 605 special schools have been provided for them. There are altogether 16,575 students now under tuition. In regard to agriculture and sericulture, special concessions have been sanctioned in the way of grants of land and other facilities.

No external improvement has enduring quality without a corresponding internal improvement in courage, hope and self-reliance; and the most potent means of promoting these qualities is co-operation. Strenuous efforts have been made to foster the co-operative spirit among these classes; funds have been sanctioned to finance their co-operative societies, and to reward good work; special facilities have been created to encourage thrift, and to provide workers with the implements of their business. The latest measure is the organisation of a co-operative agricultural colony, with due provision of land, capital, live-stock and direction. This is an important scheme, for, if it succeeds, it will have indicated some lines of further action.

Government have extended to the Adi-Karnatakas representation on all the great constitutional bodies of the State, and have ever listened to their voice with respect and sympathy. Inequalities in the constitution of society there will always be, for such inequalities are in the nature of things; but it is the duty of the State to afford to all communities the best and fullest opportunities for the development of their God-given gifts; only so, can society as a whole find stability and strength. The State which has been well called "the only potent and universal instrument of Society" must address itself to this duty. It is not merely a duty; it is the truest political wisdom. These people ought to be strength of our strength; shall we let them become our weakness? They have a rankling sense of wrong which only kindness can heal. The aim should be to "Hinduise" them more and more—for they belong to the Hindu community really—and to offer them every facility to remain within the fold. They will be a mighty accession to the strength of our body politic; if not, they will be an equally heavy subtraction from it. Alienated, they will introduce an additional element of heterogeniety which will further complicate the already difficult problems of administration. No possible means of amelioration should be neglected, and every friend of Hindu society, every lover of Mysore, should supplement the efforts of Government with all his strength.

Financial.

Before coming to the budget estimates for the coming year, which form the principal subject for our consideration at this session, I shall briefly review the anticipated results of the current year's revenue transactions. The

budget for the current year provided for a total revenue of Rs. 341·71 lakhs and a total expenditure chargeable to revenue of Rs. 341·25 lakhs, leaving a surplus of Rs. 46,000. According to the Revised estimates prepared on the basis of information so far available, the revenue is likely to be Rs. 6½ lakhs less and the expenditure Rs. 1½ lakhs more than was anticipated. This worsening of the revenue position is mainly due to a fall in the receipts from Hydro-Electric Works and from Income-tax. The power consumed by the Kolar Gold Mining Companies did not come up to expectations, while the reduction in the assessable profits of these companies and the continued slump in the business of the cotton mills resulted in a fall of about Rs. 4 lakhs under Income-tax. In addition to this, a sum of about Rs. 1 lakh written off as the result of the re-valuation of stocks of the Central Industrial Workshop and the Government Weaving Factory reduced the profits from Industrial Works.

To some extent these decreases were counter-balanced by an improvement of revenue, of about Rs. 1 lakh, under each of the heads Land Revenue, Forest and Railways. The sale of sandalwood oil was satisfactory and the increase under Forest is attributable to this cause. Better receipts and economy in working, account for the improvement under Railways.

The total expenditure for the year will not appreciably exceed the budget estimate and this must be considered satisfactory when we remember that some urgent and non-recurring items, aggregating Rs. 13 lakhs have had to be provided for in the course of the year. Among these items may be mentioned a grant of Rs. 1½ lakhs for arrangements in connection with the visit of His Excellency the Viceroy, Rs. 3 lakhs for irrigation works, Rs. 1½ lakhs for financing the building programme of the Intermediate College Scheme and Rs. 1¼ lakhs for preventive measures in connection with epidemic diseases of cattle. The additional expenditure is to some extent covered by savings under Interest, Pensions and Army. The lapse under Interest is due to the reduction of the maximum rate of interest on Savings Banks Deposits from 5 per cent to 4½ per cent and that under Army is attributable to retrenchments effected in the Mysore Horse and Transport Corps under the re-organization scheme. As evidence of the persistent way in which retrenchment is being practised whenever opportunity offers, I may perhaps point out here that, apart from these savings, reduction in the expenditure under Salaries and Establish-

ments amounting to no less than two lakhs of rupees a year has been effected. Further savings may be expected from the amalgamation of the separate workshops maintained by the Electrical, Industries and Military Departments at Bangalore. The net result of the year's operations, excluding a sum of Rs. 8·35 lakhs met form reserve funds, will be a deficit of Rs. 7½ lakhs.

Budget Estimates for 1927-28.

The estimates for 1927-28 count on a total revenue realization of Rs. 340·10 lakhs and provide for expenditure amounting to Rs. 339·80 lakhs chargeable to revenue, the prospective result of the programme being a surplus of Rs. 30,000. The detailed figures are explained at length in the Memorandum of the Financial Secretary which has been placed in your hands, and I shall only refer here to some of the main features of the budget.

The receipts from Income-tax, which are exceptionally low in the current year, will, it is expected, show a recovery and the budget under this head is accordingly placed at Rs. 1½ lakhs in advance of the current year's level. A fall of Rs. ¾ lakh is estimated under Excise, taking into consideration the results of the recent auction sales and the course of this revenue during the past few years. The Assigned Tract Revenue is placed at Rs. 1 lakh less than in the current year. A small improvement under Railways is anticipated. The Hydro-Electric revenue estimated at Rs. 26·81 lakhs shows an apparent improvement of Rs. 3·76 lakhs over the Revised. But this is due not to any real increase in the gross receipts but to the reduction of the contribution made from revenue towards the Depreciation Fund. The fund has now accumulated to over Rs. 55 lakhs, in addition to which a heavy programme of renewals has been provided for, and the annual contribution to the fund during the next year will be reduced from Rs. 8 lakhs to Rs. 4 lakhs.

The aggregate expenditure for which provision is made in the budget is Rs. 355½ lakhs. Of this, a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs intended for the construction and restoration of irrigation works will be met from the Irrigation Capital Reserve, the current interest on the Famine Insurance Fund and contributions from the Irrigation Cess Fund. The provision made for other items of non-recurring expenditure to be met from special reserves amounts to

Rs. 5·63 lakhs. This includes the re-grant of the unspent balance of the current year's provision for the improvement of the water works of Mysore City. Over and above the expenditure that will be met by these drawings from the reserve fund balances, the expenditure chargeable to revenue will be Rs. 339·80 lakhs. Among the more important items for which provision has been made under this head may be mentioned an allotment of Rs. 1 lakh under "conservancy and works" in the Forest Department to provide for expenditure which, it is hoped, will be more than recouped later on, such as the supply of sleepers and fuel to railways on a fairly large scale; Rs. 90,000 for the establishment of new courts and other measures of reform sanctioned on the recommendations of the Law's Delays' Committee; a sum of Rs. ½ lakh for expenditure in connection with the All-India Exhibition at Mysore; and a small tentative provision for the introduction of a Record of Rights in two selected taluks.

The grant for the Economic Conference has had to be reduced to Rs. 75,000; but grants for public improvements have been maintained more or less at the current year's level, *viz.*, Rs. 6¼ lakhs.

The grant for capital works for the year has been tentatively fixed at Rs. 44·89 lakhs, distributed as follows:—

		Rs.
Railways and Tramways	..	.. 20·95 lakhs.
Hydro-Electric Works—		
Electric Department		
Krishnaraja Sagara	..	.. 17·68 ,,
Kolar Gold Fields Water Supply Works	..	.. 5·95 ,,
Sandal Oil Factories	..	.. 0·12 ,,
	..	.. 0·19 ,,
Total		.. 44·89 ,,

The committee appointed by Government under the presidency of Sir M. Visvesvaraya to investigate the question of the construction of a high level canal under the Krishnaraja Sagara have sent in their report, which is under the consideration of Government. The question of financing the works that may be decided upon in this connection will be settled in the course of the year.

Another important scheme for which provision will be necessary is the improvement of the water supply to Bangalore for which proposals have been received from the special committee appointed for the purpose under the presidency of Sir M. Visvesvaraya.

Mysore Iron Works.

During the current year, the operations of the Bhadravati Iron Works have shown marked improvement in every direction. The output anticipated at the time the budget was framed will be realised in all departments except in the Pipe Foundry which is a new industry started during the year. The sales show perceptible improvement and it is expected that there will be equilibrium between the revenue and expenditure for this official year. The estimated surplus of Rs. 1,60,000 would have been realised but for the low output of the Pipe Foundry during the early months and a sudden fall of 2 dollars per ton in the price of charcoal pig iron in the American market.

The estimates for the year 1927-23 have been based on the results now being secured and the Board of Management expect that under present conditions, the operations during the next year may give a surplus of Rs. 3·5 lakhs which will be set apart as the nucleus of a Depreciation Fund. No credit is therefore taken for this amount in the general budget estimates.

During his recent visit to Europe and America, Sir M. Visvesvaraya visited many industrial concerns and made a special study of Wood Distillation and Iron and Steel Industries. He has consulted a number of experts and brought a large volume of information in regard to industries generally associated with a plant like that at Bhadravati. In order to obtain the full benefit of the forest and other resources available in the neighbourhood and to improve the financial results of the undertaking, the Board of Management have under their consideration a number of schemes for removing inequalities in the present plant and for building up a few allied industries. They have requested that a provision of Rs. 15 lakhs may be made for capital expenditure during the ensuing year. Detailed schemes are under preparation but pending their receipt no provision is made in the budget.

Government have also received a detailed review explaining the present position of the Bhadravati Works and the developments under contemplation. Copies of this review are being circulated among the members of the Assembly and the Legislative Council. The review will, I am sure, convince the members that the works are being run on efficient lines and it should dispel any doubts that may be entertained in regard to the future of this industry in Mysore.

Tours in the Districts.

Gentlemen, you are probably aware that I have spent some considerable portion of my time since I last addressed this Assembly, in tours in the different parts of the State with a view to studying in some detail the local wants and requirements of the people. These tours have given me an opportunity of meeting many of you in your own homes. You will perhaps let me mention to you some of the general impressions gathered by me during my tours. The first is the great necessity of keeping our tanks in proper condition. I found tanks silted up, feeder channels blocked or breached, and the sluices and bunds not maintained in an efficient condition. Over 20,000 tanks are in need of repairs. All this, you will agree, acts prejudicially on the production of food crops and interferes with a proper supply of drinking water. I have told you already of the efforts that Government are making to restore some of these works, but restoration will be fruitless unless tanks are maintained in a good condition after they are once brought up to standard. This is largely a matter for the raiyats to attened to, both by custom and the practical necessities of the case. Government officers in the Revenue and the Public Works Departments are being instructed to inspect the tanks frequently and to enforce the customary obligations of the people for their upkeep, and very often Government are also contributing towards the cost of maintenance. But the task is manifestly too big for any department of Government or combination of departments to undertake with success. Enlightened self-interest and voluntary labour of the raiyats and the village communities, as experience has shown time and again, can alone offer a satisfactory solution of this very serious problem.

The next point I would like to emphasize is the utter lack of sanitation in the rural parts of our State. Everywhere one sees pools of stagnant water, roads unmended and unswept, houses in a tumbling condition, backyards overgrown with noxious vegetation, manure heaps lying in front of houses, and men and cattle living side by side. The remedying of these defects is the first task to which the new Panchayats should address themselves. As I said before, more than 7,000 Panchayats have already been constituted, and if one-half or one-third of this number begins to function during the coming year and to develop a sanitary conscience in the villages which they represent, we should

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have no reason to be disappointed with the result. The utility and permanence of their work, however, will depend in a large measure on the extent to which they are able to revive the traditions, not altogether extinct, of joint labour for the benefit of the village community. Taxes in money may suit the wealthy few but the means and the genius of our rural population call for an organised system of voluntary labour, and Government trust that this will be forthcoming in a satisfactory measure.

In spite of a good deal that was discouraging, I could not help noticing, with gratification, signs of awakening public spirit. Nothing touched me more deeply than the generosity and spontaneity with which men of means came forward with donations for the construction of schools, hospitals and the like. I wish to take this opportunity of publicly expressing the warm appreciation of His Highness' Government to these gentlemen who have set a noble example of enlightened philanthropy, and have given this practical expression of the love for our motherland which animates us all.

I have impressed upon the district officers the necessity of more leisurely touring. This is particularly desirable in the case of Amildars. They should camp at each important place in their taluk for a reasonable length of time. Flying visits do no good. They should spend a night or two at a place, get to know the wants of the people, establish close personal touch with them, and assist them by friendly advice and guidance. No grievance of the people should be unknown to the Amildar and every grievance must be redressed or good reason shown for not having redressed it. I do not believe in leaving the villagers to manage things for themselves. Some co-ordinating influence, some guiding hand is necessary, and it is best supplied, in our present circumstances, by a Government official like the Amildar. But in these days the Amildar's—or for that matter any Government officer's—real usefulness and power for good depends rather on himself, on the moral respect he can command, than on the fact that he represents authority. I appeal to the district officers to spare no effort and to lose no opportunity to do the utmost that in them lies for the countryside.

Coming Events.

I may refer here to two joyous events to which we are all looking forward with eager anticipation. The first is

the visit of His Excellency the Viceroy to our State. It is now settled that His Excellency will arrive in Bangalore on the 25th July and visit Mysore on the 29th. This will give the people of the Mysore State in general, and of the two cities in particular, an opportunity of welcoming His Majesty's representative and showing their attachment to the British Throne and Empire.

The next is the proposal to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the reign of His Highness the Maharaja. This, as you know, has evoked unparalleled enthusiasm throughout the State. People in every part of the State are arranging to celebrate the Jubilee in a fitting manner and to erect a permanent memorial which will serve to remind future generations of the era of well-being and progress which the State has enjoyed under a benign and far-sighted Ruler. I am sure you will expect me to convey to His Highness the most loyal and respectful congratulations of this Assembly on the happy event and to express the fervent hope that Providence will permit long continuance of a reign which has been so auspicious to his people.

Conclusion.

Gentlemen, in all the progressive countries of the world it is clearly recognised that the pressing questions of the moment are not so much political in the narrow sense as economic and social. Human welfare, for which, in a vague and general sense, governments were built, has now become in a precise and specific way a main object of government everywhere. The up-building of character and intelligence by providing opportunity and instruction; the securing of comfort and prosperity through justice as well as philanthropy; the protection of the individual from disease as well as from attack, are all tasks which demand collective effort. Only a beginning has been made in this new order of political thought and action in our country. Parliaments and legislatures everywhere are busying themselves with these newer problems. The political fabric that has been built up in Mysore is strong and enduring and will, we need have no doubt, acquire strength with the passage of time. It behoves us, therefore, to devote all the time and thought at our command to constructive work for the improvement of the people economically and socially. For, I believe, it is in these directions that our salvation really lies.

Let us resolve at the beginning of the new Assembly

that before we part when its last session is out, we shall have set Mysore on a new road to progress and made a more prosperous people and a firmer State than we found.

The Kannada translation of the Address was read by MR. K. H. RAMAYYA, Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

As answers to Questions as well as Government Business were not ready, and as many members were not in favour of taking up discussions on the Budget, Representations were taken up.

But before they were discussed, some of the members complained of belated supply of copies of Representations, and MR. K. T. SESHAIYA suggested that they be supplied at least one week before the meeting.

THE THIRD MEMBER OF COUNCIL said that it would be difficult to do so but that it might be possible in future to supply copies as soon as the members reached Mysore.

Representations

No. 1.—Empowering the Amildars to transfer State Loan Bonds.

Messrs. P. Nagarajiah and G. Anjaneya Setti of Pavagada Taluk.

Great difficulty is experienced in the transfer of State Loan Bonds to the rightful heir on the death of the State Loan Bond-holders. At first, the heir has to apply to the Amildar-Magistrate for the grant of a heirship certificate who has to make local enquiries and submit the heirship certificate for the countersignature of the District Magistrate. After it is received countersigned by the District Magistrate it has to be sent to the Comptroller together with the Indemnity Bond and the application for sanction. For a 12½ rupees bond one could get an interest of only Re. 0-6-3 after the expiry of six months. For transfer of such a bond one has to expend Re. 1-4-0 for postage and court-fee stamps, etc. In addition to this, much time is wasted. As the Amildar is empowered to transfer immovable properties worth thousands of rupees, people will be benefited if the Amildars are empowered in this behalf also. So also the sale and the transfer of certificates may be entrusted to them.

THE SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that the difficulties complained of were true to some extent and that